

REMARKS***Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance***

The Examiner's statements of reasons for allowance are hereby acknowledged by Assignee. Assignee agrees that the claimed subject matter is patentably distinct from the documents cited by the Examiner; however, Assignee takes no position regarding the reasons for allowance presented by the Examiner, other than the positions Assignee may have previously taken during prosecution of the above-referenced patent application. Therefore, the Examiner's reasons for allowance should not be attributed to Assignee as an indication of the basis for Assignee's belief that the claims are patentably distinct. Furthermore, it is respectfully asserted that there may also be additional reasons for patentability of the claimed subject matter not explicitly stated in this record. While in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.104(e), a failure by the Assignee to disagree with the Examiner, or file more detailed comments, does not give rise to any implication that the Assignee agrees with or acquiesces in the reasoning of the Examiner, here, by this document, Assignee is expressly making clear that no such agreement or acquiescence is present.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, and 20-38 are pending in the above-referenced patent application. Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, and 20-38 are allowed.

Claims 1, 21-22, 28-30, and 38 were amended to more clearly delineate intended subject matter. It is noted that claims 1, 21-22, 28-30, and 38 were not amended to overcome any previously-presented rejections since none were presented, or to overcome any cited references since all pending claims are allowed. Furthermore, it is believed that the amendments to claims 1, 21-22, 28-30, and 38 do not narrow claim scope. Accordingly, no prosecution history estoppel should result from the claim amendments. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner enter the amendments to claims 1, 21-22, 28-30, and 38.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that all of the claims pending in the present patent application, as amended, are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 439-6500. Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the present patent application in view of the same, and early allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested. Please charge any underpayments or credit any overpayments to deposit account no. 50-3703.

Respectfully submitted,

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